

School Commission Meeting

January 5th, 2017

6:00 PM

Present: Christy Tobin-Presser, Brendan Kolding, Fr. Matthew Oakland, Brett Conway, Tara Martin, Pat Galvin, Beth Martin, Julie Leonardo, Kevin McMahon, Andrea Geraghty, Sarah Katsandres, Joellynn DeRonghe, Bill Skibitzke, Terry Burns, Mary Moan, Amanda Roberts, Ben Gauyan, Anna Horton

Absent: Dino Annest, Mary Ann Fessler, Mike Curran, Jodie Underwood

Opening Prayer

Fr. Oakland led the Commission in the opening prayer.

Approval of December Minutes

The December minutes were deemed approved.

Pastor's Report

January 5th is the feast day of St. John Neumann, the patron saint of Catholic education. Fr. Oakland recommends that Holy Rosary families observe an Epiphany tradition of selecting a saint for the year. (Saintsnamegenerator.com is a resource that can assist with this.)

Principal's Report

Principal Horton reported that she has signed up for an account with the Remind application. Parents now have the opportunity to opt-in to receive group text messages from the school. This will only be used for emergency communications.

Principal Horton will be holding a State of the School event over the spring. She has requested input from the Commission regarding the major talking points that should be publicized at this event.

Catholic Schools Week will start on January 29th. Open House will follow the 10:30 Mass on that Sunday. (There will also likely be another Open House in the spring.) Due to lack of alumni data, the school is considering renaming the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" to the "Champion of Holy Rosary Award." As such, HRS would be able to celebrate the contributions made to the school by any member of the community.

The playgrounds will receive new bark over the spring. Principal Horton is looking to replace the existing play structures in 3-5 years. One option might be partnering with the City to create the first ADA-accessible playground in West Seattle.

3rd through 8th graders scored exceptionally well on the Iowa tests. The average percent of students across the grades who scored at or above proficiency in each test is as follows:

- Reading: 95%
- Math: 93%
- Science: 90%
- Written Expression: 90%

This spring, 8th grade will take the NAPE exam and 5th and 6th grade will take the ACRE exam (religious education.)

Development Report

Beth Martin reported that \$133,000 has been pledged to the Annual Fund, of which \$81,000 has been collected. This is approximately \$60,000 behind where the Annual Fund ended last year. The Commission discussed the possibility of eventually having parent chairs from each class reach out to parents about contributing to the Annual Fund.

The Christmas Tree Lot should end up with a net of approximately \$40,000. "Deck the Halls" raised approximately \$2,000. 76 families have contributed 114 items and about \$30,000 to the auction.

Enrollment/Marketing Report

Principal Horton informed the Commission that 44 families have been accepted for next year's kindergarten class. (The current kindergarten class has 34 students.) Registration packets will go out next week. Enrollment currently stands at 445 students.

Per Principal Horton, Jennifer Kokkonis has requested that admissions/marketing events be added to the category of opportunities for which parents can earn fundraising hours.

Jennifer will be attending a preschool fair later this month.

Financial Report

Tara Martin presented key points with respect to the budget. Per the December School Commission recommendation, \$5,000 has been designated for marketing.

Parents' Club Report

Joellynn DeRonghe reported that the next Parents' Club meeting will be January 11th. Principal Horton will present on the tuition increase and accreditation, Beth Martin will present on fundraising, and Christy Tobin-Presser will present on School Commission.

Update on Progress of Committee Goals

Communications Committee

Sarah Katsandres reported that school parent Sarah Mackay will produce a marketing video at a substantial discount. Sarah also discussed the possibility of using a Mail Chimp template to create and distribute the EFC.

Brett Conway reported that school parents Jennifer and Jet Lin will be lending their web development expertise to maximize the effectiveness and usefulness of the school website. The first priority is to enhance the website prior to the Open House. The second priority is to reorganize the site so as to direct current and prospective parents to the pages that are most relevant to them.

Catholic Identity Committee

The Blood Drive will be on May 22nd. The first post-Mass coffee and donuts event (hosted by 3rd grade) was a success. The committee is hopeful that events will carry over from year to year and that they can add new events each year. Joellynn DeRonghe mentioned the possibility of putting the coffee and donuts events under the room parents starting next year. This would mean that responsibility for this program would shift from School Commission to Parents' Club.

Hours

Bill Skibitzke presented on the committee's work to date which the Commission then discussed, including ways to enhance hours tracking online, parent education regarding earning hours, and streamlining volunteer opportunities for efficiency. The Commission discussed the goals and purposes of the hours program and whether an hours buy-out would be consistent with those goals and purposes.

Bill will commence with a free trial of Sign-Up Genius Pro, a web-based service that could potentially take the place of the current hours-tracking system next year. The Commission discussed the available options, and determined that the school would likely be able to get all of the functionality it needs from Sign-Up Genius Gold, which costs \$24.99 a month.

Building & Grounds Committee

Kevin McMahon reported that the light pole has been installed. The one thing left to install is the conduit that will connect it to electricity. Banners will be hung from the light pole this week. Also, the juniper bush has been removed from in front of the preschool.

Topics for Discussion

Principal Horton will go through the list of questions that Commission members submitted last month and determine which ones she would like to have asked to parents. She will ask teachers to suggest families for Commission members to interview. The timing of this venture is TBD.

Closing Prayer

Brendan Kolding led the Commission in the closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.